


Planning and Development Department Update

DATE: February 25, 2011
TO: Mayor Setti D. Warren
FROM: Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development
RE: Friday Report 
CC: Board of Aldermen
Robert Rooney, Chief Operating Officer

This weekly report is intended to keep you informed of current development proposals and other noteworthy planning and development activities as follows:

Monday 2/28/11	• Zoning & Planning Committee, 7:45 p.m., Room 209
Tuesday 3/01/11	• Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing, 7:00 P.m., Aldermanic Chamber
Wednesday 3/02/11	• Fair Housing Committee, 8:00 a.m., Room 202
Thursday 3/03/11	• The Farm Commission, 7:00 p.m., Room 209 • Newtonville Historic District Commission, - Cancelled

- **Zoning & Planning Committee:** The Committee will hold a **Working Session** on Monday, February 28th at 7:45 p.m. in Room 202. Items for discussion are as follows: **#154-10** Aldermen Johnson, Crossley, and Hess-Mahan proposing to amend Section 30-1 of the Newton Zoning Ordinance by inserting a new definition of "lot area" and revising the "setback line" definition for clarity; **#217-00** Alderman Yates requesting that Chapter 30 be amended to require a special permit for the demolition of a structure aged 100 years or more, containing one or more residential units in any residential district; and **#17-10** Terrance P. Morris, Joseph Porter, et al proposing an amendment to the zoning ordinance for the purpose of changing the definition of "Grade Plane" and adding a new definition for "Average Grade". **Contact Jen Molinsky at 617.796.1130, or jmolinsky@newtonma.gov /Seth Zeren at 617.796.1145 or szeren@newtonma.gov**
- **Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing:** The Board will meet on Tuesday, March 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber. The following petitions will be heard: **#3-11** from Robert and Judith Lytle, **841 Commonwealth Avenue** requesting a 14.5 foot variance from the front yard setback requirements in order to construct a one car garage with a carport; **#4-11** from John B. Hollingsworth, for a variance of 2.0 feet from the maximum allowable height requirement for accessory buildings to legalize a garage at **373 Lexington Street**. **Contact Sherri Lougee at 617.796.1060 or slougee@newtonma.gov.**
- **Fair Housing Committee:** The Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 2nd at 8:00 a.m. in Room 202. The Committee will consider approval of the February meeting minutes, discuss potential Fair Housing Month events, and discuss the distribution of the Architectural Access Compliance Report. **Contact Robert Muollo, Jr. at 617.796.1146 or rmuollo@newtonma.gov.**
- **The Farm Commission:** The Commission will meet on Thursday, March 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in Room 222. On the agenda for this month are a report on farm operations, update on Community Preservation Committee's Barn Renovation Project, discussion of building insurance, new Commission applicants, and minutes. **Contact Alexandra Ananth at 617.796.1121 or aananth@newtonma.gov.**

- **Community Preservation Committee:** The Committee's next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the Newton Senior Center (345 Walnut Street, Newtonville). Information for the pre-meeting packet must be received by 9:00 a.m. on March 4th. The meeting agenda will include working sessions on: 112-116 Dedham Street (current housing proposal), the Historic Burying Grounds (current historic resources proposal), and the Newton History Museum Exterior Preservation project (requested change of scope for already funded project). **Contact Alice Ingerson at 617.796.1144 or aingerson@newtonma.gov.**
- **Survey of City's Oldest Buildings:** The City of Newton's Department of Planning and Development is undertaking a project to identify and document all buildings in Newton built before 1830. This project is funded through a research grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission so that the City can improve its records on the history of its oldest buildings. We have identified approximately 120 buildings in the City that have either been previously identified as having been built pre-1830, or have conflicting information as to their correct date of construction. Our task is to consult all public records and resources at our disposal, as well as take exterior photos of all the buildings on our list. Between now and June 2011, you may see one of us outside of your or your neighbor's house taking a photo from a public way. The information gathered during this project will be used by the Department of Planning and Development to confirm the dates of construction for properties in order to enhance our understanding of historic building patterns in the City. If you have any questions about the project or wish to offer information you might have about the history of your home, we are happy to speak with you at any time. **Contact Katy Holmes at 617.796.1143 or kholmes@newtonma.gov or Brian Lever at 617.796.1129 or blever@newtonma.gov.**
- **Newtonville Historic District Commission:** The March meeting of the Newtonville Historic District Commission has been **cancelled**. The next filing deadline is March 23rd and the next scheduled meeting is Thursday, April 7th. **Contact Katy Holmes at 617.796.1143 or kholmes@newtonma.gov.**

